



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat Happenings

2009
July/August

There comes a moment every year when something happens to make me say, "Now it is summer!" It comes with the first loud buzz of the cicadas. Long before summer is over, we are getting phone calls from people asking about those singing insects.

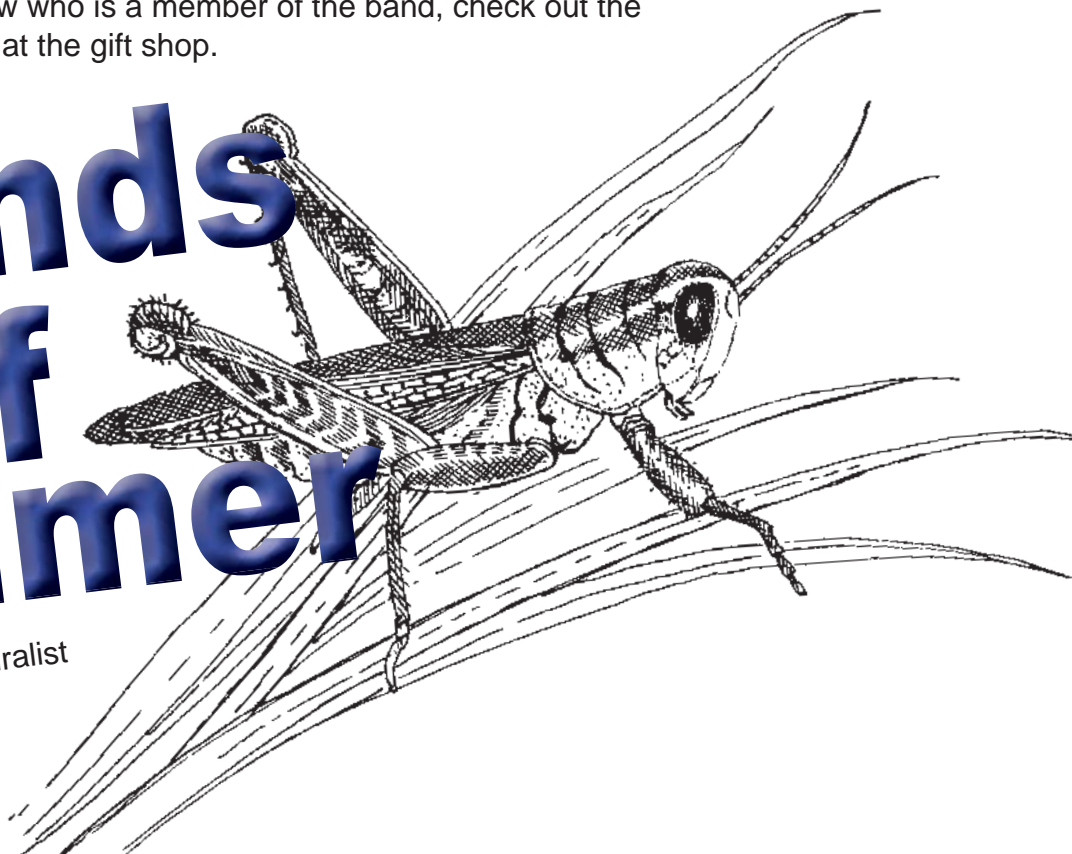
Beyond heralding summer, insect songs have a purpose in nature-communication. This communication is important to setting up territories and finding a mate. The males are singing love songs for all of us to hear.

Singing, however, might not be the right phrase. Insects don't use their mouths to sing, but rather make noise with other parts of their bodies. Crickets and katydids rub their wings together to make their lovely music. Cicadas fill their abdomens with air and then let it out through special openings called timbals. Grasshoppers stridulate -that is- rubbing one of their legs against their bodies or against a wing. Think it sounds easy? Give it a try!

There is a lot about the environment we can learn from insect sounds too! Insects need to warm up to sing, so we can learn the temperature outside without having a thermometer. Some insects are very exact in their temperature requirements. Read the rest of the newsletter for some examples. No matter how it is done, in the summer we are all serenaded by these insect songs. Take the time to stop and listen to the concert provided nightly (and daily) by the Great Bug Band. If you want to know who is a member of the band, check out the Singing Insects CD available at the gift shop.

Sounds of Summer

by Alane Dubbert, Naturalist



Volunteer Lobby Exhibit

~July and August~

Through Nature's Gate

Debbie Schellman

"Come with me through nature's gate and let us walk a while." -Debbie Schellman



Come enjoy a walk *through nature's gate* with the poetry, photographs, and paintings of Missouri artist and photographer, Debbie Schellman. See panoramic views of Missouri's hillsides, valleys, woods, and streams. Witness close encounters with elusive animals and delicate wildflowers through Debbie's camera and enjoy her poetic expressions invoked by quiet walks in the woods.

News

Volumes of work is accomplished by
Outstanding people who
Lead, instruct, interact, and work on
Untold numbers of projects.
They have smiles on their faces and
Energy to spare.
Each time they are here,
Runge and you benefit.

Thank you RUNGE VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteer Milestones

The following volunteers were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge.

Lee Kudrna – 300 hours

Allen Verdot – 300 hours

Sonya Hollingworth – 1250 hours

In Action...



Judy Helming and Gabby Lehmuth working at an off-site exhibit

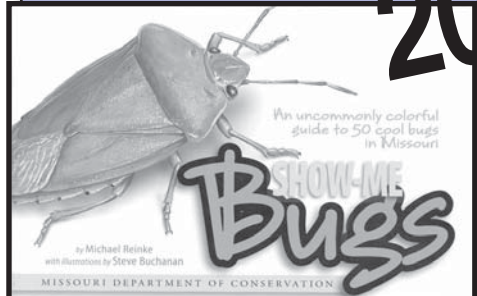


Hannah Schefus and Gretchen Hanna demonstrating quilting techniques.

Nature Shop News

July/August featured item

20% OFF



Discounted Price: \$6.36
Heritage card discount does not apply.

Designed for use in the field, the book's icons, ruler and habitat, range, food and life-cycle details make species identification easy. Perfect for kids, families, teachers and gardeners. 136 pgs. softcover

Did you know... Butterflies and moths are just a few of the insects that fly silently around us.



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

NEW!

Reservations required.
573/526-5544

When you make your reservation, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns' program to help us better prepare for the program. Thank you.

Stream Day

Tuesday, July 21– 9:00AM-3:00PM (make your reservation between July 1 and July 17)

We are taking a field trip to the Maries River for a splashin' good time. This watery world exploration will allow you to peer into the realm of aquatic insects, crustaceans, and fish. Our adventure will fill our bellies with campfire hotdogs while making lifetime friends and memories. More detailed information is available on the permission form. The permission form is available at www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/runge/ or one can be sent to you when you make a reservation.

Nature PLAY!

Tuesday, August 18– 6:30-8:00PM (make your reservation between August 1 and August 14)

Leave no Conservation Kid's Club member INSIDE! We will have fun playing and discovering nature through scavenger hunts, web of life game, eye in the sky (using a third eyeball), texture trek, and MORE... Reserve your special spot to play!

Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for **siblings** of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, August 18th**. **There will not be a preschool program in July.**

For the little ones



Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Babes In The Woods

Children ages 0 through 2 years of age are welcome to attend a Babes program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 15 children, plus a caregiver.

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

Little Acorns PLUS

If you have a child that fits into our Babes In The Woods program AND one that fits into our Little Acorns program this is for you! Little Acorns PLUS. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver. **When you make your reservation, please provide ages of your children.**

July

Call 573/526-5544 on or after July 1st to make your reservation.

Snake Sense

It only makes sense to be curious about an animal that “smells” with its tongue. We will investigate the five senses of the snake this month. Ssssee you there!

Babes In The Woods

Thursday, July 9 – 10:00AM
Sunday, July 19 – 1:00PM

Little Acorns

Friday, July 10 – 1:00PM

Little Acorns PLUS

Saturday, July 11 – 10:00AM
Wednesday, July 15 – 1:00PM

August

Call 573/526-5544 on or after August 1st to make your reservation.

Duck, Duck, Goose!

Waddling, paddling, or flying, take your pick. Ducks can do it all! These feathered friends will highlight our program this month. Quack, quack - come join us!

Babes In The Woods

Wednesday, August 19 – 10:00AM
Tuesday, August 25 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

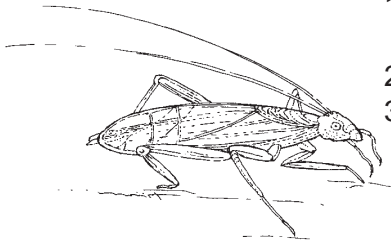
Saturday, August 8 – 10:00AM
Friday, August 28 – 1:00PM

Little Acorns PLUS

Friday, August 14 – 1:00PM
Thursday, August 20 – 10:00AM

A Living Thermometer

On warm summer evenings you may go to sleep listening to the chirping of crickets. Crickets also sing during the day, but their voice is often drowned out by other daytime noises. The males sing to attract a mate by rubbing the sharp edge of one front wing over the ridge on the other front wing. Scientists have discovered that the chirps of the Snowy Tree Cricket can help you tell the temperature. This works best on a warm summer evening. All you need is a watch or clock with a second hand, and a paper and pencil.



1. Count the number of chirps in 15 seconds
2. Add 37
3. Your answer should be the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

Hunter Education Courses

This 10-hour certification course is required of every hunter born after January 1, 1967. These courses will be held at the Runge Nature Center. To make your reservation, contact the Columbia Regional Office at 573/884-6861. For additional courses visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/hunt/huntered/>.

July Course*

July 23 6:00–9:00PM
July 24 6:00–10:00PM
July 25 8:00AM–Noon

September Course*

September 10 6:00–9:00PM
September 11 6:00–10:00PM
September 12 8:00AM–Noon

*Must attend all three days.

Enjoy the outdoors...

July

- 1-Blackberries are ripening.
- 12-Dragonflies lay eggs on ponds and streams.
- 22-May apple fruits ripen and fall on ground
- 30-Watch for young hummingbirds at feeders

August

- 10-Striped bass and walleye head for cold water.
- 18-Salamander larvae are transforming into adults.
- 23-Dabbling ducks return from the north.
- 28-Male white-tailed deer rub velvet off antlers.



Did you know...

Bees buzz with their wings! The rapid wing beats of many bee species create wind vibrations that people hear as buzzes. The larger the bee, the slower the wing beat and the lower the pitch of the resulting buzz.

Critter Feeding

Snake Feeding – Tuesdays at 2:00PM

July 7 and 21

August 4 and 18

Snapping turtles and large fish aquarium – most Mondays and Fridays at 2:00PM

July 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 27

August 3, 14, 17, 21, and 24

Did you know...Termites are head-bangers! That's right. Soldier termites knock their heads against the nest/ground to warn of danger and communicate with others in the nest.



Decoy Making

Discover Nature Families Program

Dates:

Friday, August 14, 6:00 to 9:30PM
Saturday, August 15, 8:00AM to noon

Location:

Charles A. Green Conservation Area

Whether sitting on a fireplace mantel or floating in a wetland, hand crafted cork body duck decoys are eye catchers and great conversation pieces. At this program, we'll provide you with the materials and knowledge to create your own cork body duck decoy. We recommend that you bring a shop apron and eye protection to the program. This is a free program, open to families, i.e., child (**8 years and older**) with parent or caregiver. Reservations can be made by calling the Central Regional Office at 573/884-6861 by August 7. You will be given directions to the Charles A. Green Conservation Area when you make your reservation. Attendance is limited to 30, so call early! Please note that this is not a nature center program, reservations must be made through the Central Regional

MDC



DISCOVER nature

Discover Nature programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together.

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Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274

Habitat Happenings
Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102



JULY EVENTS

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **July 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

5 Sunday 2:00PM **A Puppet Show– Boisterous Bugs**

Ages: All

Biz-zzz...chaz-zz...brez-zz...gazzee-e. What's all that noise about? It's the "Boisterous Bugs" getting ready for their show in Runge's Puppet Theater. When you come to our show, you'll meet Grasshopper, Cricket and her friends. Perhaps Salamander and Turtle will be there, too, but you'll just have to see who pops up. No reservations required.



11 Saturday 8:00AM-5:00PM

The Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

There's a lot to see at **Lake of the Ozarks State Park**, Missouri's largest. We'll begin with a hike through a savanna, glade, fen, and over two swinging bridges, all on the **Coakley Hollow Trail** (1 mile). We will also hike **Rocky Top Trail** (3 miles). We will conclude with a Naturalist-led tour of **Ozark Caverns** to see what creatures lie beneath the earth's surface, claw marks of creatures who used the cave long ago and more. The tour is a 1/2 mile round trip. Bring your lunch, water, \$3.00 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Wednesday 6:30-7:30PM **Art and Nature Series: Nature Journals**

Ages: 8 - 12 years old

Learn to look at nature from another point of view! We will talk about the importance of writing down and/or sketching what we find and then we will walk a trail to find a special item. Bring your own nature journal or we will provide one for you to record important finds. Reservations required.

16 Thursday 10:30AM–Noon or 6:00–7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

It's hard not to be amused by these readily identified, smallish animals that waddle, stomp their short legs when angered and send the most fearless outdoor folks running. These characteristics have certainly factored into the striped skunk's infamy. Join us as we learn more about this "little stinker." Reservations required.

17 Friday 7:30-9:00PM

Firefly Fun

Ages: All

Spend a fun-filled evening with your family learning about the insects that light up the summer sky. We will begin with a short indoor program and spend the rest of the evening outdoors observing, catching, and releasing these magical insects. Bring a flashlight or borrow one of ours. Reservations required.



18 Saturday 10:00AM

Story tree

Ages: All

The sounds of nature - buzz, gurgle, swish, plop, hoot, bark, growl, and twerp. Who makes those sounds? Why do they sound like that? When do they make those noises? Discover the exciting sounds around us. Come to the story tree. No reservations required.



21 Tuesday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Teen Club: Stream Day

Ages: 12 - 17 years old

It's all about water; water for everything and everyone. We will tag along with the Conservation Kids' Club to the Maries River and spend a hot summer day exploring. We will scoop for crawdads and aquatic invertebrates. We will don goggles and peer into the watery world of these critters and we will enjoy a delicious hot dog lunch on a gravel bar. Wear shoes and clothes that can get wet. Pack a towel, sunscreen, water, and goggles if you have them. We will provide snacks, lunch, cold drinks, and transportation from Runge and back again. Make sure your parents fill out the Conservation Kids' Club/Teen Club permission form. Forms are available at www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/runge/ or one can be sent to you when you make a reservation. Reservations required.

22 Wednesday 8:00AM-5:00PM

Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

Take a hike! Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

The **Hi Lonesome Prairie Conservation Area** is a remnant of the vast prairie ecosystem which provides habitat for a diverse group of plants and animals. We will hike 5 miles through this native prairie to view prairie wildflowers and get a glimpse of many grassland species of birds. Brush up on your wildflower identification and join in on the Wildflower Contest II - The Sequel. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

AUGUST EVENTS

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **August 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.



1 Saturday 9:00-10:30AM

Insect Safari

Ages: 8 years and older

Come join us as we search for a record number of insect species

and discover what it takes to be a bug or an insect. We will walk the prairie to see what we can find by netting and observation. No reservations required.



1 Saturday 11:00AM

A Puppet Show—Boisterous Bugs

Ages: All

Biz-zzz...chaz-zz...brez-zz-...gazzee-e. What's all that noise about? It's the "Boisterous Bugs" getting ready for their show in Runge's Puppet Theater. When you come to our show, you'll meet Grasshopper, Cricket and her friends. Perhaps Salamander and Turtle will be there, too, but you'll just have to see who pops up. No reservations required.



5 Wednesday 3:00-11:00PM

Runge Midweek Trekkers

Ages: 18 years and older

Ever wonder what uses hiking trails at night? Sometimes, hikers do! Bring your lantern or flashlight and join us for night hiking at Scrivner Road Conservation Area. We will start in the afternoon and hike parts of the Moreau Creek Trail (6.5 miles). We will encounter shallow stream crossings, ponds, fields, and forests. As darkness settles in, we'll hike the hilltops (2 miles) and view Winegar Lake and surrounding countryside. Bring your dinner and if conditions permit, we will have a fire and roast hot dogs. Bring water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

7 Friday 8:00PM-8:00AM Saturday, August 8

Nighty Night at Runge

Ages: 8 years and older

Bring your sleeping bag and spend the night at the nature center! Take a special "behind the scenes" tour, head out on the trails for an adventurous night hike, and spy on the nighttime critters that visit our feeders. We'll gather for storytelling, snacks, and finally a snooze.

This year's event will focus on Nature's Night Shift. We'll discover what our nocturnal animals are doing while we're sleeping.

This event requires a signed parental permission form which is available at www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/runge/ or one can be sent to you when you make a reservation. One parent may accompany each child. Please, no scout groups. Reservations required.

9 Sunday 2:00PM

Story tree

Ages: All

The sounds of nature - buzz, gurgle, swish, plop, hoot, bark, growl, and twerp. Who makes those sounds? Why do they sound like that? When do they make those noises? Discover the exciting sounds around us. Come to the story tree. No reservations required.



Did you know...

Male katydids have a warm weather song and a cold weather song to sing to their ladies. When it is over 77 degrees they sing fast, when it is below 68 degrees they sing slow.



15 Saturday 8:00AM-5:30PM

Runge Hiking Club

Ages: 18 years and older

Join us this month as we hike at **Pickle Spring Natural Area**. This forest tract is a designated natural area containing sandstone knobs, arches, canyons, and cliffs. Be prepared to explore some beautiful country on a 2-mile interpretive hiking trail. Also, get introduced to a little known natural area called Hickory Canyons. This 1 1/2 mile trail offers great views of the area's distinctive bluffs and canyons. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Saturday 2:00-3:00PM

Art and Nature Series: Rubbings

Ages: 8 - 12 years old

Learn to look at nature from another point of view! Using simply paper, we will walk a trail to find a tree with interesting bark and briefly talk about the kind of tree it is and then do a rubbing. Comparing various tree barks and rubbings might reveal a very interesting 'picture.' We will provide the items needed for the rubbings, including the trees! Reservations required.

20 Thursday 10:30AM-Noon and 6:00-7:30PM

Nature's Needlers

Ages: 18 years and older

There probably isn't another animal with as much written about it as the red fox. Often known as Brer fox or Reynard, this little canine is cunning and elusive. This month we will learn more about this opportunistic animal. Reservations required.

29 Saturday 2:00-4:00PM

Critter Café

Ages: All

Visit anytime during the scheduled time and observe some of our critters as they eat. We will show you what they eat and they will show you how they eat. We will finish with the large fish aquarium and snapping turtles. No reservations required.